



November 19, 2015

LADRONES



Ladrones is a fun and funny comedy that was better than I expected. A little Latin twist on Robin Hood, *Ladrones* offers a spicy romp that is refreshing to see on mainstream big screens. I have to admit, *Ladrones* does serve up some stereotypes like bowls of chips and salsa, but the humor is tasteful and not offensive in the ways some American comedies can be. Basically the plot is simple. A group of retired thieves steal from some third generation thieves in order to restore balance and justice to the people.

Ladrones reminds us that family is worth fighting for and that united, people can face anything. Now, this isn't going to win awards, but if you just want to have a nice time, while being reminded that once-upon-a-time there was not a border that

needed to be crossed into Mexico, then grab the jalapeños and nacho on for a good time.

Ladrones relies on the community and interconnectedness that is so important to Hispanic culture. With a little Cuban humor thrown into the mix, *Ladrones* doesn't pretend to be more than just what it is. There are villains and heroes in unlikely places here. Traditional male and female roles are challenged, and there is more equality than differences. I liked the message in that. There is a role to be played and a job for everyone. Relationships between mothers and daughters can be complicated and *Ladrones* does a nice job of navigating the muddy waters of a techie daughter whose mother doesn't quite get it until she sees just how important her skills are to the entire operation.

Ladrones is fast-paced and action-packed. There are some funny lines, and I liked that the subtitles changed depending on who was speaking, making it a bi-lingual movie. Take your abuelita, tio and tia – everyone will have a great time. I hope they make another movie with this same cast. They have a likable chemistry that can appeal to everyone.

I give *Ladrones* three golden tickets. A good matinee movie.

